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RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSG #0135 0201710
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 201710Z JAN 06
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8270
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 0139

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000135

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR R/MR, I/PP, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA, PM, INL
STATE FOR INR/R/MR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR KPAO OPRC CI HA

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - HAITI

¶1. On January 20, government-owned, editorially independent "La Nacion" (circ. 3,800) carried a column by international analyst Raul Sohr entitled, "Haiti: a Dead End Alley."

¶2. "Tension is increasing as the February 7 elections approach...and this drama shows no sign of ending soon.... President Lagos has said he would maintain Chilean troops in Haiti until June 2006. That would be the appropriate time to begin their withdrawal. Considering its scarce resources, Chile made a disproportionate contribution in Haiti that has had little effect.... After two years of Chilean presence, the balance in Haiti is not optimistic."

KELLY